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29 June 1962

SUBJECT: Memorandum on Special Group (5412) Meeting on
28 June 1962

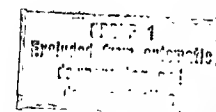
1. All peripheral activities and the forecasted CIA air activities were approved. A substitution of one ARGON or one CORONA shot during July was approved if decided upon by USIB. The necessity of flying all of the "back-up" South China and North Viet Nam [REDACTED] flights was discussed and the Committee expressed the view similar to that expressed by USIB, namely that these flights should only be flown if operational requirements indicated an absolute necessity. No authorities were withdrawn however. The Group recognized that they had authorized two high-priority U-2 flights opposite Formosa and are willing to grant an additional flight upon request after one authorized flight had been either alerted or flown.

COMOR paper on targets was reviewed and Special Group expect the details on the number of flights necessary to cover targets after COMOR Committee has acted upon USIB instructions to review targets under Tab C and Tab D and determine how many of these targets have been covered by prior flights and the indicated flight patterns necessary to complete the surveillance desired by SecDef.

ACTION: COMOR should be prepared to submit to the Special Group on Thursday, July 5th, at least two comprehensive flights. I suggested one cover remaining Northeast China targets and one cover remaining or the highest priority Central China targets and that COMOR also indicate on overlay map the number of targets listed in Tabs C and D which have been recently and satisfactorily covered and therefore further surveillance of these targets can be deferred for six months. The Special Group agreed that targets which have recently been under observation and on which satisfactory photography is in our hands should not be again covered at this time. This however does not apply to targets under Tab A nor the South China area which will be covered under the authorized three South China flights.

NSC REVIEWED NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION AND

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2. The CIA counter-insurgency planning for Viet Nam was reviewed and approved and the Group agreed that the question of CIA versus DOD jurisdiction should be referred to appropriate representatives of the two Departments who would discuss the subject and present an operational plan. I took the position that CIA had no fixed position in this matter; that we wished the program to proceed; that we felt CIA had certain unique and special knowledge in this field and that this, together with Defense's very considerable ability, must be used under any plan which is drawn up.

ACTION: FitzGerald should meet with DOD and JCS representatives to resolve this matter.

ACTION: DDP ask State to communicate at once with the Ambassador if approval has not already been given.

4. Other Items

ACTION: Senator Russell had expressed keen interest in this subject and should be advised.

General Taylor presented and discussed a cable, Nolting to State #18691, June 25th, which contained information not prior received yet.

JAM/mfb

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JOHN A. McCONE
Director